

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01 PC-04 OPR-02 OMB-01

RSR-01 /133 W

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R 121941Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4856

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CINCSO

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2147

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (EMB LA PAZ ADDED AS INFO ADDRESSEE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJ: GENERAL STRIKE ENDS

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MVD 2106

1. SUMMARY: ENDING TODAY (JULY 12) OF GENERAL STRIKE IS VICTORY FOR ADMINISTRATION. MARXIST UNION LEADERS MAY HOPE TO RECOUP INFLUENCE BY WINNING ANY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED TO DETERMINE NEW WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES. BUT LEFTIST HOPE LIKELY TO CLASH WITH EXECUTIVE'S STATED DETERMINATION TO ELIMINATE MARXIST-INFLUENCE IN URUGUAY. END SUMMARY

2. FORTY-THREE UNIONS, REPRESENTING THE MAJOR AFFILIATES OF THE OUTLAWED CNT LABOR CONFEDERATION, VOTED EVENING JULY 11  
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TO TERMINATE THE GENERAL STRIKE DECLARED JUNE 27 TO PROTEST

THE CLOSING OF THE CONGRESS.

3. EXECUTIVE, IN SERIES OF PRONOUNCEMENTS YESTERDAY, MADE CLEAR THAT ANY DECISION TO RETURN TO WORK WOULD BE A UNILATERAL CONCESSION ON THE PART OF THE UNIONS. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY ISSUED COMMUNIQUE DENYING THAT THE EXECUTIVE HAD EVER AGREED TO MEDIATION OF DIFFERENCES WITH POLITICAL OR LABOR SECTORS. COMMUNIQUE, WHICH DENOUNCES PRESS REPORTS THAT A THREE-MAN NEGOTIATING COMMISSION WAS SEEKING TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE POLITICIANS/LABOR UNIONS (SEE REFTEL), GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE EXECUTIVE IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE "ANALYZING LABOR PROBLEMS WITH THE TRUE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATION'S WORKERS, AND WILL SEEK TO PROMOTE A FREE, STRONG AND AUTHENTIC URUGUAYAN LABOR MOVEMENT". GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ALSO IS QUOTED IN TODAY'S PRESS AS DENOUNCING RUMORS THAT THE EXECUTIVE HAD MADE ANY CONCESSIONS TO THE OUTLAWED CNT. SPOKESMAN RESTATED EXECUTIVE'S DETERMINATION TO ESTABLISH AN "APOLITICAL UNION" MOVEMENT.

4. MINISTER OF INTERIOR BOLENTINI, WHO HAS HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH UNION LEADERS (INCLUDING LEADERS OF CNT AFFILIATES) IN RECENT DAYS, ALSO EMPHASIZED YESTERDAY IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO OUTLAW THE CNT WAS FINAL. BOLENTINI STATED THAT THE WORKERS' DECISION TO RETURN TO WORK HAD BEEN MADE "WITHOUT ANY TYPE OF PRESSURE OR CONCESSIONS" FROM THE GOVERNMENT. BOLENTINI ALSO INDICATED THE EXECUTIVE WOULD ANNOUNCE SOMETIME IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS A NEW UNION LAW WHICH REPORTEDLY WILL INCLUDE KEY PROVISION REQUIRING SECRET AND GOVERNMENT-REGULATED BALLOT FOR UNION ELECTIONS. SECRET VOTE WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED BEFORE ANY STRIKE DECISION WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT. BOLENTINI ALSO CONDEMNED PRESS STORIES THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD RESORTED TO MEDIATION OF ITS DIFFERENCES WITH THE LABOR SECTORS, BUT HE DID STATE THAT CONVERSATIONS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT WITH ALL SECTORS AND HE SUGGESTED THAT SOME OF THE "IDEAS" OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S OPPONENTS MAY HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED.

5. MINISTER OF DEFENSE RAVENNA TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT GOVERNMENT HAD NOT AND WOULD NOT ENTER INTO ANY NEGOTIATIONS  
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WITH THE MARXIST LEFT. RAVENNA CHARACTERIZED THREE-MAN NEGOTIATING TEAM AS LAST-DITCH LEFTIST EFFORT TO SALVAGE SOME FACE-SAVING ACCORD IN THE LIGHT OF THE MARXIST FAILURE TO MAINTAIN THE GENERAL STRIKE. HE NOTED THAT THE FAILURE OF THE STRIKE HAD CONFIRMED THE CORRECTNESS OF THE ACTIONS OF PRESIDENT BORDABERRY AND THE MILITARY. (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS)

6. COMMENT: GENERAL STRIKE WAS DISINTEGRATING PRIOR TO

UNIONS' DECISION TO CALL IT OFF. CONSTRUCTION WORKERS HAD RETURNED TO JOBS ON JULY 10 AND GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN TOLD EMBOFFICERS THAT INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WAS BACK TO SOME 70 PERCENT OF WORK FORCE AS OF MORNING OF JULY 11. THUS UNIONS' DECISION APPEARS IN LARGE PART TO BE FACE-SAVING GESTURE. LEFTIST UNION LEADERSHIP MAY ALSO, HOWEVER, HOPE TO WIN MOST ELECTIONS FOR WORKERS' REPRESENTATORS, A GOAL WHICH IT MAY BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE (SEE MVD, A-61 OF APRIL 28, 1973). ALTHOUGH PRO-VISIONS FOR GUARANTEED SECRET STRIKE VOTE GREATLY WEAKENS UNION LEADERSHIP IN CASES HAVING POLITICAL OVERTONES. FORECAST IS THUS FOR CONTINUED CONFRONTATION BETWEEN A LABOR SECTOR WITH STRONG LEFTIST INFLUENCE AND AN EXECUTIVE DETERMINED TO ELIMINATE THIS MARXIST CONTROL.

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